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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/845,947	04/30/2001	Jack T. Burnett	300730US8	3321
22850	7590	01/07/2009		
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			EXAMINER PHILLIPS, HASSAN A	
			ART UNIT 2451	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 01/07/2009	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/845,947

Applicant(s)

BURNETT ET AL.

Examiner

HASSAN PHILLIPS

Art Unit

2451

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 November 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7-13 and 18-26 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 7-13 and 18-26 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/C)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to communications filed on November 3, 2008.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on September 29, 2008 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed September 29, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argued: "there is no disclosure or suggestion that the guest speakers in Alcorn have authority to view a limited subset of portions of the virtual events". The examiner respectfully disagrees.

4. With regards to applicant's remarks, examiner maintains Alcorn teaches guest speakers have authority to view a limited subset of portions of the virtual events at least where Alcorn discloses making the "Access Control" tab available only to the instructor, (see "Access Control" in the table in col.'s 19 and 20). This suggests that the guest

speakers have authority to view a limited subset of portions of the same virtual events that the instructors have authority to view.

5. Applicant's remaining arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 7-13, 18-26, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alcorn et al. (hereinafter Alcorn), U.S. Patent 6,988,138 in view of Cohen et al. (hereinafter Cohen), U.S. Patent 7,035,926.

8. In considering claims 7 and 18, Alcorn discloses a method for presenting virtual events (i.e. virtual classroom sessions) through a network interfaced with the Internet, the method comprising: authorizing plural organizations (i.e. institutions) access to the network by an organization administrator (i.e. enterprise administrator), wherein the organization administrator is granted authority to grant access by an administrator (i.e. person/entity offering the institution a licensing program for three tier

functionality), (see col. 10, line 61-col. 11, line 50, col. 19, lines 17-28, and col. 24, lines 14-24); each organization authorizing the creation of one or more virtual events through the network, each virtual event having an associated event champion (i.e. instructor), (see col. 17, lines 20-38 and col. 19, lines 17-28); establishing a virtual event architecture for each virtual event by the associated event champion, the virtual event architecture identifying one or more content contributors (i.e. students), (see col. 19, lines 17-51, also see "Participant Information" in the table in col. 20); and uploading content by the content contributors from the Internet, the associated event champion authorized to approve the uploaded content, (see col. 19, lines 17-51, also see "Access Control" in the table in col. 20); and providing unregistered attendees (i.e. guest speakers/subject matter experts) authority to view a limited subset of portions of the virtual events, (see col. 19, lines 17-28, also see "Access Control" in the table in col.'s 19 and 20, and col. 27, lines 12-32).

Although the teachings of Alcorn disclose substantial features of applicant's claimed invention, they fail to expressly disclose the unregistered attendees being "anonymous".

Nevertheless, in a similar field of endeavor, Cohen discloses attendees to a virtual event being "anonymous", (col. 11, lines 15-28).

Thus, given the teachings of Cohen, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the teachings of Alcorn to expressly disclose the unregistered attendees being anonymous. As taught by Alcorn, this would have

advantageously given the unregistered attendees the option to conceal their true identity, (col. 11, lines 15-28).

9. In considering claims 8 and 19, Alcorn further discloses defining a predetermined time period for presentation of a virtual event (i.e. calendar event, course task, quiz) through the Internet, (col. 18, lines 39-60, col. 22, lines 35-57); and authorizing predetermined attendees (i.e. students) to access the virtual event during the predetermined time period, (col. 18, lines 39-60, col. 22, lines 35-57, also see col. 27, lines 12-32).

10. In considering claims 9 and 20, Alcorn further discloses establishing membership to the network for an attendee before authorizing access by that attendee to the virtual event, (col. 27, lines 12-32, also see col. 18, lines 39-60 and col. 22, lines 35-57).

11. In considering claims 10 and 21, Alcorn further discloses wherein establishing the virtual event architecture further comprises identifying one or more sponsors (i.e. the institution that has licensed the product) of a virtual event, (col. 13, lines 33-49, also see col. 17, lines 32-38 and Fig. 16).

12. In considering claims 11 and 22, Alcorn further discloses wherein establishing the virtual event architecture further comprises identifying one or more exhibitors (i.e. students) of the virtual event, (see "Participant Information" in the table in col. 20).

13. In considering claims 12 and 23, Alcorn further discloses previewing by the event champion of content (i.e. incoming questions) loaded to a virtual event, (see col. 19, lines 29-51, also see "Incoming Questions" in the table in col. 20); and authorizing the previewed content by the event champion for presentation in the virtual event, (see "Access Control" in the table in col. 20).

14. In considering claims 13 and 24, Alcorn further discloses wherein the content comprises a video presentation, (col. 12, lines 11-21).

15. In considering claim 25, the teachings of Cohen suggest wherein the providing step includes using an anonymous browser module to provide a registration form (i.e. the module used to provide log-in window 122), said anonymous browser module being configured to accept registration data (i.e. log-in information), (col. 11, lines 15-28). One of ordinary skill in the art would modify the teachings of Alcorn with Cohen for reasons previously indicated in considering claim 1.

16. In considering claim 26, the teachings of Cohen suggest wherein the providing step includes presenting a graphical user interface by an anonymous browser

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module (i.e. the module used to provide log-in window 122), said graphical user interface being configured to provide access to the limited subset of portions of the virtual events, (col. 11, lines 15-28). One of ordinary skill in the art would modify the teachings of Alcorn with Cohen for reasons previously indicated in considering claim 1.

Conclusion

17. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HASSAN PHILLIPS whose telephone number is (571)272-3940. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8am-5pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on 571-272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Hassan Phillips/
Examiner, Art Unit 2451